



June 28, 2007

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

RE: Regional Transportation Plan - Opportunities for the Future of Transportation in Marin County, Agenda Item 9

Dear Commissioners:

Executive Summary:

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission, MTC, is the Metropolitan Planning Organization, or MPO, under federal law, for the nine-county Bay Area. Per that role, they are responsible for the development and approval every four years of a Regional Transportation Plan, or RTP, that projects regional travel for the next 25 years, assigns all available regional revenues to transportation needs of the region, and assesses the impacts of those decisions. The next RTP is due to be completed no-later-than Spring 2009. MTC is starting now to update the RTP.

MTC's process for an RTP update is complex. In concert with its partners at the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, MTC views the regional needs for transportation, and through a goal setting and modeling process, attempts to arrive at a consensus on how best to invest transportation revenues. The ultimate document must be financially constrained, matching available revenues.

Based on criticism in the last two RTP update processes that MTC failed to develop a broad vision of transportation for the future, they have invited county Congestion Management Agencies and transit operators to submit candidates for a "vision element" of the RTP. Meant to follow MTC's last major vision effort in 2000 with the publication of the MTC Blueprint for the 21st Century, this vision document affords us a chance to submit elements of what we foresee as future transportation needs in Marin County. TAM is coordinating with its transit operators to understand and represent transit needs as well as other modes.

At the TAM Board meeting of June 28th, the TAM Board is welcoming input from interested agencies and individuals on the future transportation needs and opportunities in Marin County. A number of agencies and individuals have contacted TAM staff regarding their interest in speaking. Following the presentations, TAM staff will be working with MTC staff to synthesize and incorporate the various visionary elements into MTC's regional documents.

Recommendation: Discussion only. Consider and Comment on the various transportation elements presented, regarding future transportation needs and opportunities in Marin County.